In the meanwhile, in order to enable the State Government to meet the situation arising out of heavy rains during March, 2008, the Government of India has released in advance, the first instalment of Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 37.115 crore to Kerala on 10th April, 2008.

The State Government of Kerala has submitted a memorandum seeking Central assistance from NCCF for relief operations in the areas affected by heavy rains during March, 2008. An Inter-Ministerial Central Team was constituted, which visited the State during 5th-6th April 2008, for an on the spot assessment of damage and requirement of funds. Further action will be taken on receipt of report of the Central Team, as per laid down procedure for release of Central assistance from NCCF.

Involving civil defence in tackling disasters

3173. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARATIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has mooted a proposal to change the character of Civil Defence by giving its volunteers the responsibility of tackling disasters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have been consulted/asked help to face such challenges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI); (a) and (b) The Government have decided to involve the Civil Defence volunteers in disaster management in addition to their traditional roles. In this regard, Government have issued necessary instructions to the State Government/Union Territory Administrations that the services of Civil Defence Volunteers can be utilized by the State Government in tackling the disaster crises also.

(c) and (d) A Committee under Member, National Disaster Management Authority was set up to suggest measures to involve Civil Defence in disaster management.

The Report of the Committee was shared with the State Governments, who have agreed with the key recommendations on involving Civil Defence volunteers in disaster management.

Strengthening of CISF

3174. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has recently complained of shortage of manpower and latest equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to strengthen the CISF?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.